

Tarantula Books

Traditional stories hold a special fascination for every generation of children.

This series has been newly illustrated and stories retold in a simple and straightforward style, especially suitable for reading aloud.

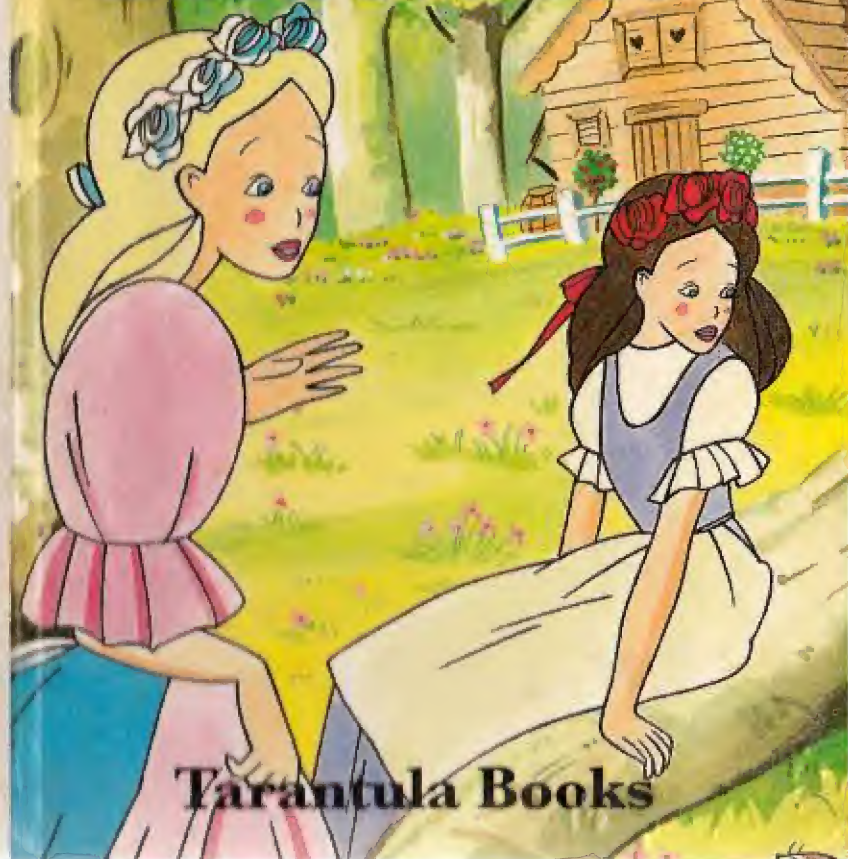


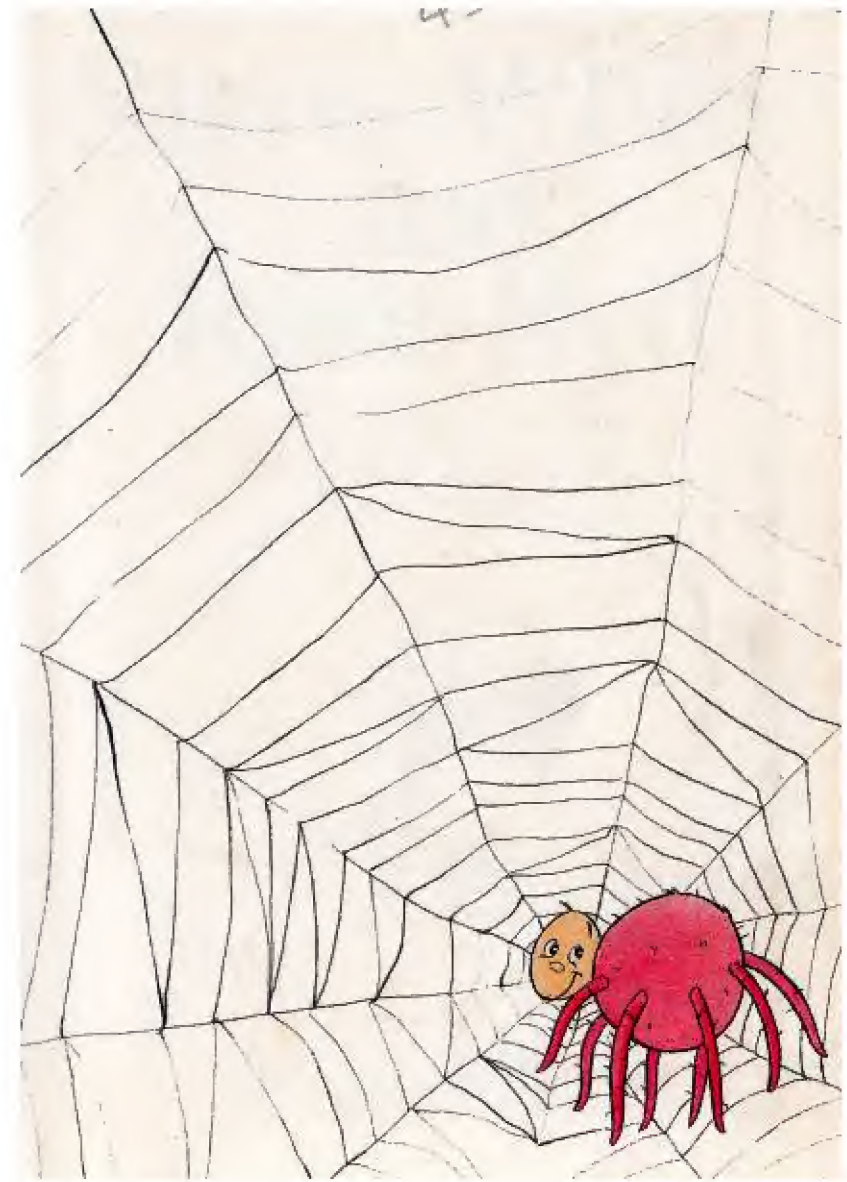
ISBN 1-85534-598-6



9 781855 345980

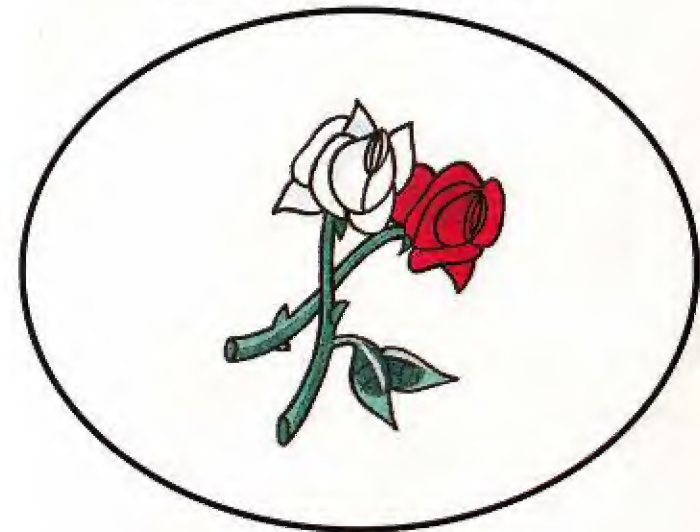
Snow-White and Rose-Red





Snow-White and Rose-Red

Retold by Judy Hamilton
Illustrated by Lindsay Duff



© 1995 Geddes & Grosset Ltd
Published by Geddes & Grosset Ltd,
New Lanark, Scotland.

ISBN 1 85534 598 6

Printed and bound in Great Britain.

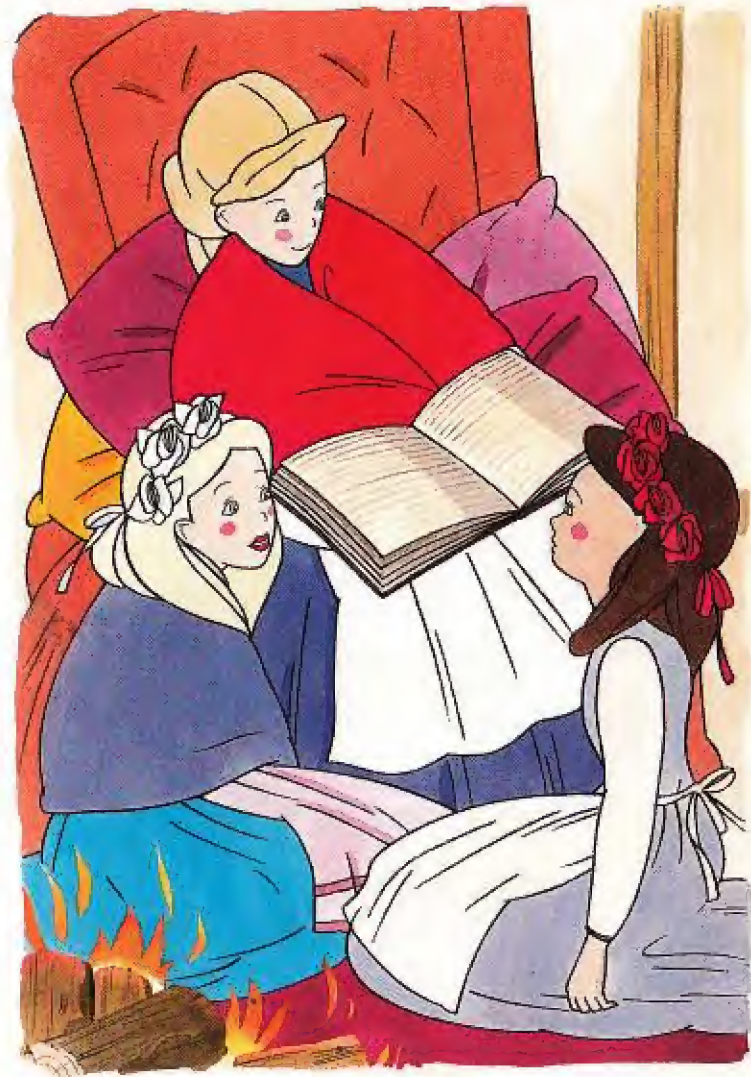
Tarantula Books

There was once a widow who lived with her two daughters in a cottage in the forest. In the garden there grew two beautiful rose bushes, one white, the other red. The two girls were named after the rose bushes; one girl was called Snow-White and her sister was called Rose-Red. Snow-White was fair and Rose-Red was dark, and both were as pretty as the flowers after which they had been named. The two sisters always played together. Both of them loved all the creatures of the forest and would spend many happy hours among the trees with the animals. The forest creatures did not fear Snow-White and Rose-Red like other humans; they knew the girls meant no harm.



Snow-White and Rose-Red's mother was very proud of both of her daughters and they in turn loved her dearly. Their mother had to work very hard to provide enough food for them all to eat, and Snow-White and Rose-Red did all that they could to help her. They cooked and cleaned and they sewed their own clothes. And when the rose bushes were in bloom, they made sure that a vase of either red or white roses was placed by the side of their mother's bed. In the evenings, the two girls would sit by the fire and talk to their mother, or listen while she read stories to them.

One winter's evening while they were happily occupied in this way, there came a loud banging on the cottage door.



A snowstorm was blowing outside and the girls thought that a traveller had lost his way. But when their mother answered the door, they saw a great big black bear standing there. They were very frightened at first, but the bear spoke to them very gently:

“Please let me come in and get warm for a while. I am frozen to the marrow.”

So they let the bear sit by the fire and the girls swept the snow from his coat. When Snow-White and Rose-Red invited him to stay the night, the bear gratefully accepted. Next morning, he lumbered off into the forest again.

“Come again whenever you like,” said Snow-White and Rose-Red as he left.



The bear came again every night for the rest of the winter, and each time he came the girls would take great delight in playing with him; rolling him over and scratching his stomach or gently pulling his hair. If their games became too rough, the bear would simply say to them:

“Snow-White and Rose-Red, would you have your sweetheart dead?” to quieten them.

When spring came, the bear came to stay one night and told them that he had to go away for the summer. Snow-White and Rose-Red felt very sad when they waved him off into the forest. They did not know when they would see the big bear again. He had been a good friend to them all winter and they would miss him very much.



Some days later, when the girls were out in the forest, they found a tiny dwarf, hopping mad, his beard caught in a split which he had made in a tree trunk with his axe. Snow-White and Rose-Red ran to help.

"I suppose you have come to laugh at me, you stupid creatures!" snarled the tiny man.

"We have come to help!" the girls said.

No amount of pulling could free the dwarf's beard, so Snow-White took her scissors from her apron and cut off the end of the beard.

"Look what you have done to my beard!" cried the dwarf furiously. "A curse upon you!"

The dwarf had a bag of gold standing by him. He grabbed it and disappeared under a stone.



A few days later, Snow-White and Rose-Red came upon the bad-tempered dwarf again. They were down by the river and saw him leaping up and down at the water's edge. His beard had got tangled in his fishing line. A big fish had been hooked on the other end of the fishing line; it was about to pull the dwarf into the water! Snow-White and Rose-Red tried to disentangle the beard, but it was no use; they had to cut another bit of it off with the scissors.

The dwarf was not in the least grateful.

"My beard! My pride and joy!" he cried with rage. "I'll get you for this!"

There was a bag of pearls beside him. He snatched it up, cursing, and disappeared again.



Snow-White and Rose-Red had not seen the last of the dwarf. One day, as they were walking on the moor above the forest, the girls saw a great hawk plunge from the sky towards earth. They heard a terrible screaming and shrieking and then saw the hawk trying to take off once again. The girls ran closer and saw that the hawk had the dwarf in its talons, struggling for all he was worth. Snow-White and Rose-Red were horrified to see the poor little man in such trouble and began to hit the hawk to try to get it to let go of him. After quite a struggle, hitting the hawk and pulling at the dwarf's coat, the girls finally managed to free the dwarf from the hawk's grasp. The dwarf crashed to the ground, his face red with fury.



“Just look what you have done!” he cried. “I’m all battered and bruised and my lovely coat is torn. Did you have to be so rough with me?”

The dwarf’s rudeness was no surprise to the girls. They were used to it by now. They watched in silence as the dwarf picked up another bag from beside him. This one contained jewels of all shapes and colours. The dwarf clutched the bag tightly to his chest and vanished from sight. The girls carried on their way, their good deed done.

They were on their way home from their walk when they came across the dwarf one more time. He did not see them coming and did not know that they were there. He had spread out all his treasures on the ground before him.



The gold, the pearls and the jewels were all there; a magnificent array of wealth which sparkled and glinted in the summer sunshine. Snow-White and Rose-Red gasped at the sight. Suddenly, the dwarf turned.

"What are you staring at?" he demanded angrily. He began to gather all his treasures together again, but was stopped by a great roaring sound coming from the trees nearby. His fury turned to terror as he saw a great big black bear crashing through the undergrowth towards him.

The dwarf panicked. He knew there was no time to hide.

"Oh, Mr. Bear, please forgive me!" he cried. "Spare my life, I beg you!"



The bear moved towards the dwarf relentlessly. "I shall give you all these treasures!" the dwarf cried. "Don't kill me! Take these two plump young girls here; eat them for your supper!"

But the pleas of the dwarf were in vain. The bear moved up to him and gave a mighty sweep of his great paw. The dwarf was knocked to the ground and killed in an instant.

Snow-White and Rose-Red, fearing for their own lives, tried to run away, but the bear called them back.

"Snow-White and Rose-Red, wait for me! Don't be afraid!"

It was then that the girls recognized the voice of their old friend from the winter.



They turned back towards him, just in time to see that the bear's skin was falling away. There in front of them stood not a bear, but a handsome man dressed in golden clothes. Seeing the girls' astonishment, the man began to explain.

"I am a king's son," he said. "That terrible dwarf stole all my treasures and changed me into a bear, condemning me to roam the forest as a wild animal until he died. Now he has been justly punished, and I am free again."

The girls were delighted that their good friend had recovered his treasures and been released from the wicked dwarf's enchantment. They went with the prince to tell their mother the good news.



The prince would never forget the kindness that Snow-White, Rose-Red and their mother had shown towards him during the winter-time when he had to live as a bear. In time, the kindness and friendship of the three of them was well rewarded. The prince asked Snow-White to marry him and she agreed. Rose-Red was married at the same time, to the prince's brother.

The treasures which they had recovered from the dwarf's hiding place ensured that they lived comfortably together. The girls' mother went to live with them all, taking the two precious rose bushes from her cottage garden to her new home. Snow-White, Rose-Red, their princes and their mother were happy for the rest of their lives.



